

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 TAIPEI 03222 231101Z
ACTION EA-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00

PA-01 ICA-11 SP-02 MMO-01 PM-05 /043 W

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P 231053Z MAY 78

FM AMEMBASSY TAIPEI

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 7533

INFO USLO PEKING

AMCONSUL HONG KONG

CINCPAC HONOLULU HI

S E C R E T TAIPEI 03222

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

E.O.11652: GDS

TAGS: MILI, TW

SUBJECT: SUGGESTED PRESS GUIDANCE FOR FURTHER REDUCTIONS
OF DOD PERSONNEL ON TAIWAN

1. HAVE BEEN INFORMED BY TDC THAT JCS HAS DIRECTED REDUCTION OF DOD MILITARY AND CIVILIAN PERSONNEL ON TAIWAN BY OCTOBER 1, 1978. REQUEST CLEARANCE OR REVISION FOLLOWING Q AND A FOR MISSION USE ONLY IF SUBJECT RAISED BY PRESS. (WE ARE WORKING WITH TDC TO TRY AS FAR AS POSSIBLE TO AVOID ACTIONS WHICH WOULD AROUSE PRESS INTEREST. WE ARE PARTICULARLY ANXIOUS TO AVOID ADDING THIS ISSUE AT THIS TIME WHEN BRZEZINSKI VISIT AND ITS COINCIDENCE WITH CCK INAUGURATION AS WELL AS ICA BRANCH OFFICE CLOSURES VERY MUCH IN PUBLIC'S MIND.) IF, IN A MONTH OR SO, PUBLIC BECOMES AWARE THAT WE ARE CONTINUING REDUCTIONS, WE DOUBT THEY WILL ATTRACT MUCH ATTENTION.

--QUESTION 1. HAS U.S. DECIDED TO REDUCE TROOP LEVEL ON TAIWAN?

SECRET

SECRET

PAGE 02 TAIPEI 03222 231101Z

--ANSWER: REDUCTIONS OF DOD CIVILIAN AND MILITARY PERSONNEL ARE CONTINUING IN ACCORDANCE WITH SHANGHAI COMMUNIQUE (READ PERTINENT PASSAGE) AND OUR MANY OFFICIAL STATEMENTS ON THIS SUBJECT OVER PAST SEVERAL YEARS.

--QUESTION 2. WHAT IS REASON FOR REDUCTION?

--ANSWER: IT INVOLVES MANPOWER AND BUDGETARY CONSIDERATIONS AND IS CONSISTENT WITH THE SHANGHAI COMMUNIQUE.

--QUESTION 3. YOU'RE IMPLYING THAT TENSIONS ARE DIMINISHING BUT VARIOUS MAINLAND LEADERS HAVE RECENTLY REAFFIRMED THEIR INTENTION TO USE FORCE AGAINST TAIWAN IF NECESSARY. HOW DO YOU RECONCILE THIS?

--ANSWER: TENSIONS IN THE AREA HAVE DECREASED CONSIDERABLY AS A RESULT, AMONG OTHER THINGS, OF IMPROVED US-PRC RELATIONS.

--QUESTION 4. HOW MANY TROOPS ARE LEFT HERE?

--ANSWER: (SUGGEST CITE ROUNDED-OFF FIGURE BASED ON UNCLASSIFIED MONTHLY POPULATION REPORT WHICH EMBASSY CABLES DEPARTMENT RATHER THAN THE BOTTOM-LINE OCTOBER GOAL. THIS WILL EMPHASIZE THE CONTINUING NATURE OF THE REDUCTIONS.)

--QUESTION 5. WHAT SPECIFIC UNITS ARE BEING WITHDRAWN AND WHAT IS PERCENTAGE OF CUTS FOR REMAINING UNITS?

--ANSWER: WE DO NOT COMMENT ON SPECIFIC FIGURES CONCERNING MOVEMENTS OF U.S. MILITARY UNITS.

--QUESTION 6. I UNDERSTOOD THAT THERE WOULD BE NO MORE TROOP REDUCTIONS IN PACIFIC REGION.

SECRET

SECRET

PAGE 03 TAIPEI 03222 231101Z

--ANSWER: SUCH REPORTS HAVE APPEARED IN THE PRESS HERE AND EACH TIME WE HAVE REITERATED THAT THERE WOULD CONTINUE TO BE WITHDRAWALS OF DOD MILITARY AND CIVILIAN PERSONNEL FROM TAIWAN. (CANNON NOVEMBER 17 PRESS CONFERENCE.)

--QUESTION 7. IS THIS ACTION BEING CARRIED OUT AS RESULT OF PRC PRESSURES OR NEGOTIATIONS WITH PEKING?

--ANSWER: NO. DISPOSITION OF U.S. FORCES IN EAST ASIA, INCLUDING TAIWAN, IS DETERMINED BY USG IN ACCORDANCE WITH OUR INTERNATIONAL OBLIGATIONS, POLICY INTERESTS AND SECURITY CONSIDERATIONS.

--QUESTION 8. WILL THIS ACTION AFFECT U.S. COMMITMENTS TO TAIWAN UNDER MUTUAL DEFENSE TREATY?

--ANSWER: NO.

--QUESTION 9. HOW MUCH MONEY WILL BE SAVED BY THESE CUTS?

--ANSWER: I DON'T HAVE THAT INFORMATION.

--QUESTION 10. DOES THE REDUCTION HAVE ANYTHING TO DO
WITH NORMALIZATION?

--ANSWER: IT IS IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE SHANGHAI COM-
MUNIQUE.

2. ABOVE FOR USE BY TDC PIO AND EMBASSY SPOKESMAN ON
AN "IF ASKED" BASIS. UNGER

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NNN

Message Attributes

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